

## **PROPOSAL 50**

### **5 AAC 24.365. Armin F. Koernig Salmon Hatchery Management Plan.**

Amend the *Armin F. Koernig Salmon Hatchery Management Plan* to reduce straying of hatchery-produced salmon, as follows:

(a) **Fish stocks in the state shall be managed consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks.**<sup>[1]</sup> The department, in consultation with the hatchery operator, shall manage the Point Elrington and Port San Juan Subdistricts to achieve the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation's escapement goal for the Armin F. Koernig salmon hatchery. **Management to achieve an adequate return of fish to enhancement projects for brood stock shall be consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks.**<sup>[2]</sup>

(b) The Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area consists of the waters of Sawmill Bay (Evans Island) north and west of a line from 60°03.63' N. lat., 147°59.45' W. long., to 60°02.63' N. lat., 148°01.70' W. long., excluding the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area.

(c) The Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area consists of the waters of Sawmill Bay (Evans Island) west of 148°01.95' W. long.

(d) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 24.320 and 5 AAC 24.330 and except as otherwise provided by emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060 , a person holding a permit under AS 16.10.400 for the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery, and an agent, contractor, or employee of that person who is authorized under 5 AAC 40.005(g) , may harvest salmon within the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area from 6:00 a.m. July 7 through 6:00 p.m. September 15 using purse seines, hand purse seines and beach seines.

(e) **Armin F. Koernig Salmon Hatchery has legislative responsibility to incorporate the following PNP Hatchery Act mandated obligations:**

**fish stocks in the state shall be managed consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks**<sup>[3]</sup>

**(1) hatchery programs shall be operated without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state**<sup>[4]</sup>

**hatchery programs shall be operated under a policy of management which allows reasonable segregation of returning hatchery-reared salmon from naturally occurring stocks;**<sup>[5]</sup>

**Hatchery program remote release sites shall be located in an area where a reasonable segregation from natural stocks occurs** <sup>[6]</sup>

**hatchery operations and specifications must be consistent with the comprehensive regional salmon plan approved under AS 16.10.375**<sup>[7]</sup>

**the department and board shall define and validate straying proportions “based on the best available scientific information” to sustain productivity, without adversely affecting, or jeopardizing sustained yield of wild naturally occurring salmon**<sup>[8]</sup><sub>[9]</sub>

**validated proportions of benign hatchery salmon straying are defined as chinook xxx%; sockeye xxx%; coho xxx%; chum xxx%, pink xxx%;**

**Until the department and board have a policy of management that justifies and validates this reasonable segregation, of straying proportions without jeopardizing wild stock sustained yield,**<sup>[1]</sup> **the CSP and genetics policy 2% rule will be adhered to within wild naturally occurring streams**<sup>[10]</sup>

**when proportions of hatchery salmon straying exceed validated percentages, jeopardizing sustained yield of wild fish stock, production shall be ramped down the following spring, from each Remote Release Site, hatchery or THA source incrementally until adverse affects cease**<sup>[11]</sup><sub>[12]</sub>

- [1] AS 16.05.730 (a) Management of Wild and enhanced Stocks of Fish
- [2] AS 16.05.730 (b) Management of Wild and enhanced Stocks of Fish
- [3] AS 16.05.730 Management of Wild and Enhanced Stocks of Fish.
- [4] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent
- [5] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent
- [6] AS 16.10.420. (10) Conditions of a Hatchery Permit
- [7] AS 16.10.480 (f) Contracts for the Operation of State Hatcheries
- [8] 5AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(1) (B),(D), (2)(D); (3)(B),(F)
- [9] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent
- [10] 5AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(1) (B),(D); (2)(D); (3)(B)(F)
- [11] Intent of PNP Hatchery Act
- [12] Article VIII Section 3 and 4. Natural Resources, Common Use; Sustained Yield. Alaska Constitution

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** AS 16.10 375 Regional Salmon Plans was the beginning "to designate regions of the state for the purpose of salmon production". Salmon Production to aid our at that time failing runs.

The AHRP results presented by ADFG at the Hatchery Committee meeting, showed that hatchery fish Relative Reproductive Success (RRS), averaged 0.42, less than half, of natural wild stocks reproductive production a value of 1.0 in wild streams. Straying is jeopardizing production and sustained yield of wild fish populations.

The Armin F. Koernig AFK Salmon Hatchery is one of the prime offenders making up the majority of the facilities creating unacceptable inter-regional hatchery straying from PWS into LCI wild significant stocks. Of the hatchery facilities in PWS, AFK made up almost 40% in 2014 ; 30% of facilities were AFK in 2015; and again almost 40% in 2016.

This is unacceptable to the public trust and the laws to protect wild fish in the state of Alaska. In one Significant Stock alone, Barabara Creek, 92.6% were hatchery fish, 87.4% were PWS hatchery fish from 250 miles away with 31% documented through reading otoliths coming from this AFK hatchery. This is not reasonable segregation and is against the law.

This pattern necessitates that production at this hatchery be ramped down by at least 10%-20% increments each year, until this straying ceases. While it is understood that straying varies year to year and system by system it is time to create a framework of phased reduction, to address the variables and recognize and admit the damage we are exerting as wild populations getting homogenized into lower productivity. Lower Productivity, the opposite of the very reason for designating regions to rehabilitate our ailing fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries Inc. (EF-F20-129)  
 \*\*\*\*\*